



News Release

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**"910th Airlift Wing Family Support Center
receives Department of Defense award"**

DATE: February 21, 2003

NUMBER: 03-02-05

YOUNGSTOWN AIR RESERVE STATION, OHIO – Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Thomas F. Hall hosted the Department of Defense Reserve Family Readiness Awards for 2002 ceremony on Friday, February 14, 2003, in the Hall of Heroes at the Pentagon.

The 910th Airlift Wing Family Support Center from Youngstown Air Reserve Station was selected as the Air Force Reserve Command recipient of this award and was represented at the Pentagon ceremony by Brig. Gen. Michael F. Gjede, Commander of the 910th Airlift Wing; Mr. Michael R. Lamb, Director, 910th Family Support Center; Tech. Sgt. Lori Cisneros-DeLillo, Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge of Family Readiness; and Ms. Cindy Hillier, the 910th Family Support Center Volunteer Coordinator and Senior Volunteer Specialist with the Trumbull County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Congressman Tim Ryan, (D-17, OH), also attended the ceremony and received the award along with the 910th staff members.

This awards program was established in 2000 to recognize the top unit in each Reserve Force component that demonstrated outstanding family readiness while maintaining superior mission readiness. Family readiness is an essential component to Reserve Force quality of life and greatly enhances the deployability of Guard and Reserve units.

According to the award citation signed by Secretary Hall, "The 910th Family Support Center has geared its efforts to serving the Total Force—active, Reserve, Guard and retired. A guiding principle of the 910th Airlift Wing is that Family Readiness is important through each phase of the deployment cycle, and this has been a major point for the Family Support office during the past 15 months."

Lamb is very energetic about the important service his team provides to the military personnel and their families.

"The Family Support Center is the central point of contact for families and military members. When they call or come to our office we try our best to assist with the information requested or refer them to agencies that can help most efficiently and expeditiously. Also, our staff and volunteers work very closely to keep our reservists informed and ready to deploy at any given moment. We constantly reassure them that we are available 24/7. If we can't help them because of location we will find someone in their area to assist. More and more we are becoming a joint military service family assistance organization as we merge together with our resources at the ready for our troops and families. It is exhilarating to serve this community and all who call upon us for assistance. Volunteerism in many cases is the reason this office does so many great things for those still serving our country," said Lamb.

The great effort the staff of the Family Support Center puts forth is also appreciated by the leadership of the 910th Airlift Wing.

“This award recognizes the tremendous team effort that’s been on-going in our Family Support office,” said Brig. Gen. Michael F. Gjede, commander of the 910th Airlift Wing.

“My thanks go out to our Family Readiness staff members and all the wonderful volunteers who help them out. They deserve this recognition,” he said.

When asked what their “secret” to their success was, Cisneros-DeLillo, said, “Believing in what we do matters most. The military members and families we service welcome our assistance and programs. At times, what may seem the smallest request may make a difference in that families’ day. We don’t do this alone. It is with the support of the military supervisors, unit first sergeants and commanders assisting in publicizing our existence. It’s a wonderful job in the area of family services with a wide area of training, and so rewarding!” she said.

The Family Support Center staff doesn’t accomplish what they do alone. Volunteerism is key to their success.

Volunteers such as Cindy Hillier, the 910th Family Support Center Volunteer Coordinator and Senior Volunteer Specialist with the Trumbull County Chapter of the American Red Cross said, “The Family Support Center here often goes above and beyond the call of duty to help people. They go out of their way to help people at all times.